IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A method, in a data processing system, for loading an operating system, comprising:

searching, by a boot code, a set of partitions of a storage device for file systems resulting in found file systems;

identifying, by the boot code, a plurality of operating systems associated with the found file systems, each one of the file systems being associated with one or more of the plurality of operating systems;

selecting, by the boot code, one operating system of the plurality of operating systems, wherein selecting one operating system of the plurality of operating systems includes determining priorities of the plurality of operating systems and selecting an operating system having a highest priority; and

loading, by the boot code, operating system instructions of the selected one operating system.

2. (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying each of the found file systems, wherein each of the found file systems are identified by loading a file system descriptor block associated with each of the found file systems.

3. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a plurality of operating systems associated with the found file systems includes identifying a preferred operating system for each found file system based on file system information in a file system descriptor block for each of the found file systems.

4. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a plurality of operating systems includes identifying a boot sector on the storage device associated with an identified operating system for each of the plurality of operating systems.

5. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein loading operating system instructions includes loading an operating system kernel in a boot sector of the storage device.

6. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the method is implemented in a network computer.

7. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a plurality of operating systems associated with the found file systems includes identifying a second plurality of operating systems corresponding to one file system of the found file systems and selecting one of the second plurality of operating systems as an operating system associated with the one file system.

8. (Original): The method of claim 7, wherein selecting one of the second plurality of operating systems includes looking at a boot block of the one file system and selecting an operating system from the second plurality of operating systems based on information in the boot block of the one file system.

9. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the method is implemented by a network computer and wherein the plurality of file systems are located on a network server.

10. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the method is implemented in a personal computer and wherein the storage device is one of a hard disk, a floppy disk, and an optical disk accessed by the personal computer.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[11]] 1, wherein the priorities of the plurality of operating systems are modifiable by a user.

13. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[11]] 1, wherein the priorities of the plurality of operating systems are modifiable by a user via a menu.

14. (Currently Amended): A data processing apparatus for loading an operating system, comprising:

a processor unit; and

a first storage device coupled to the processor unit, the first storage device storing boot code that is executed by the processor unit to perform the functions:

identifying a plurality of file systems on a second storage device, each one of the plurality of file systems being associated with a partition of the second storage device;

identifying a plurality of operating systems associated with the plurality of file systems, each one of the plurality of file systems being associated with one or more of the plurality of operating systems;

selecting one operating system of the plurality of operating systems, wherein selecting one operating system of the plurality of operating systems includes determining priorities of the plurality of operating systems and selecting an operating system having a highest priority; and

loading operating system instructions of the selected one operating system.

15. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the plurality of file systems are identified by loading a file system descriptor block associated with each one of the file systems.

16. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein identifying a plurality of operating systems associated with the plurality of file systems includes identifying a preferred operating systems based on file system information in a file system descriptor block for each one of the plurality of file systems.

17. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein identifying a plurality of operating systems includes identifying a boot sector on the storage device associated with an identified operating system for each of the plurality of operating systems.

18. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein loading operating system instructions includes loading an operating system kernel in a boot sector of the storage device.

19. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the data processing apparatus is a network computer.

20. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein identifying a plurality of operating systems associated with the plurality of file systems includes identifying a second plurality of operating systems corresponding to one file system of the plurality of file systems and selecting one of the second plurality of operating systems as an operating system associated with the one file system.

21. (Original): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein selecting one of the second plurality of operating systems includes looking at a boot block of the one file system and selecting an operating system from the second plurality of operating systems based on information in the boot block of the one file system.

22. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the data processing apparatus is a network computer and wherein the plurality of file systems are located on a network server.

23. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the data processing apparatus is implemented in a personal computer and wherein the second storage device is one of a hard disk, a floppy disk, and an optical disk accessed by the personal computer.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim [[24]] 14, wherein the priorities of the plurality of operating systems are modifiable by a user.

26. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim [[24]] 14, wherein the priorities of the plurality of operating systems are modifiable by a user via a menu.

27. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the processor unit includes at least one processor.

28. (Currently Amended): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for loading an operating system, comprising:

first instructions for identifying a plurality of file systems on a storage device, each one of the plurality of file systems being associated with a partition of the storage device;

second instructions for identifying a plurality of operating systems associated with the plurality of file systems, each one of the plurality of file systems being associated with one or more of the plurality of operating systems;

third instructions for selecting one operating system of the plurality of operating systems, wherein the third instructions include instructions for determining priorities of the plurality of operating systems and selecting an operating system having a highest priority; and

fourth instructions for loading operating system instructions of the selected one operating system.

29. (Original): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the first instructions include instructions for loading a file system descriptor block associated with each one of the file systems.

30. (Original): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the second instructions include instructions for identifying a preferred operating systems based on file system information in a file system descriptor block for each one of the plurality of file systems.

31. (Original): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the second instructions include instructions for identifying a boot sector on the storage device associated with an identified operating system for each of the plurality of operating systems.

32. (Original): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the fourth instructions include instructions for loading an operating system kernel in a boot sector of the storage device.

33. (Original): The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the second instructions include instructions for identifying a second plurality of operating systems corresponding to one file system of the plurality of file systems and selecting one of the second plurality of operating systems as an operating system associated with the one file system.

34. (Original): The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the instructions for selecting one of the second plurality of operating systems include instructions for looking at a boot block of the one file system and selecting an operating system from the second plurality of operating systems based on information in the boot block of the one file system.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim [[35]] 28, wherein the priorities of the plurality of operating systems are modifiable by a user.

37. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim [[35]] 28, wherein the priorities of the plurality of operating systems are modifiable by a user via a menu.

38. (Currently Amended): A data processing system for loading an operating system, comprising:

first identifying means for identifying a plurality of file systems on a storage device, each one of the plurality of file systems being associated with a partition of the storage device;

second identifying means for identifying a plurality of operating systems associated with the plurality of file systems, each one of the plurality of file systems being associated with one or more of the plurality of operating systems;

selecting means for selecting one operating system of the plurality of operating systems, wherein the selecting means includes priority means for determining priorities of the plurality of operating systems and selecting an operating system having a highest priority; and

loading means for loading operating system instructions of the selected one operating system.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended): The data processing system of claim [[39]] 38, wherein the priorities of the plurality of operating systems are modifiable by a user.

41. (Currently Amended): The data processing system of claim [[39]] 38, wherein the priorities of the plurality of operating systems are modifiable by a user via a menu.